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The President's Daily Brief

May 22, 1976

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(D)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

May 22, 1976

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LEBANON: *Fighting in most areas of Lebanon continues to subside, although leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt has still not finally approved a new truce agreement.*

Jumblatt and his allies say they are still studying a proposal for renewed negotiations that was first presented to them on Wednesday by president-elect Ilyas Sarkis. Most Lebanese politicians believe Jumblatt is in favor of the cease-fire, but suspect that he is engaged in last-minute bargaining for new conditions.

Jumblatt may be using recently won public support from other Arab capitals to strengthen his position. The leftists have been playing up pledges of support they received yesterday from the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon and from a special delegation from Iraq. The endorsements from Algiers and Baghdad appear to have been prompted by Libyan Prime Minister Jallud's announcement early this week that Libya fully supports Jumblatt's "progressive front."

Despite Jumblatt's stalling, Sarkis and other Lebanese officials are moving ahead on plans for the "post cease-fire" period. All members of the Lebanese security forces have been ordered to return to their posts and warned that they will be punished for disobeying the order. The security forces melted away during the heavy fighting last year when they were carrying the major burden for patrolling disputed areas.

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ISRAEL-LEBANON:

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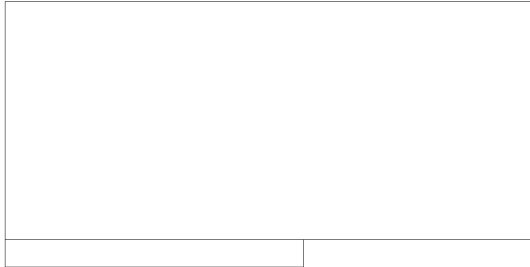
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CUBA-AFRICA: Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' remarks at a press conference in Tokyo on Thursday reflect the usual Cuban line on Africa and the US and do not represent a change in policy.

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Rodriguez' pledge that Cuba would not send "troops" to Rhodesia is little more than an exercise in semantics

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Moreover, any rebel group in Rhodesia declaring itself the legitimate government could meet Rodriguez' criterion for intervention by Cuban troops.

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The key factors affecting a Cuban decision on direct intervention will continue to be the attitudes in Moscow and in such African countries as Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Open Cuban involvement in military operations is unlikely so long as African leaders believe the Smith government can be removed through guerilla warfare.

Rodriguez' comments on relations with the US are only a reiteration of the long-held Cuban position that no progress can be made while the US persists in its economic denial program.

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NOTES

Japan is on the verge of ratifying the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty after more than five years of debate.

Final approval is expected on Monday--the last day of the current Diet session--when the upper house is scheduled to vote on the treaty. Upper house passage, like the approval of the treaty by the lower house late last month, will largely be the result of the government's compromise with the opposition parties. These parties had been concerned that ratification of the treaty would prompt Tokyo to tighten its military ties with the US and perhaps provide a justification for the entry of US nuclear weapons into Japan.

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It is now clear that the recent call-ups of civilian reservists in Romania were part of an unannounced but planned mobilization and alert exercise.

An officer of the Romanian foreign liaison office has confirmed to a Western military colleague that a "normal" alert began several days ago. Panic buying has subsided considerably in Bucharest. We continue to have no indications of any Soviet troop movements or exercises along the Romanian border that might have sparked the alert.

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Ugandan [redacted]

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